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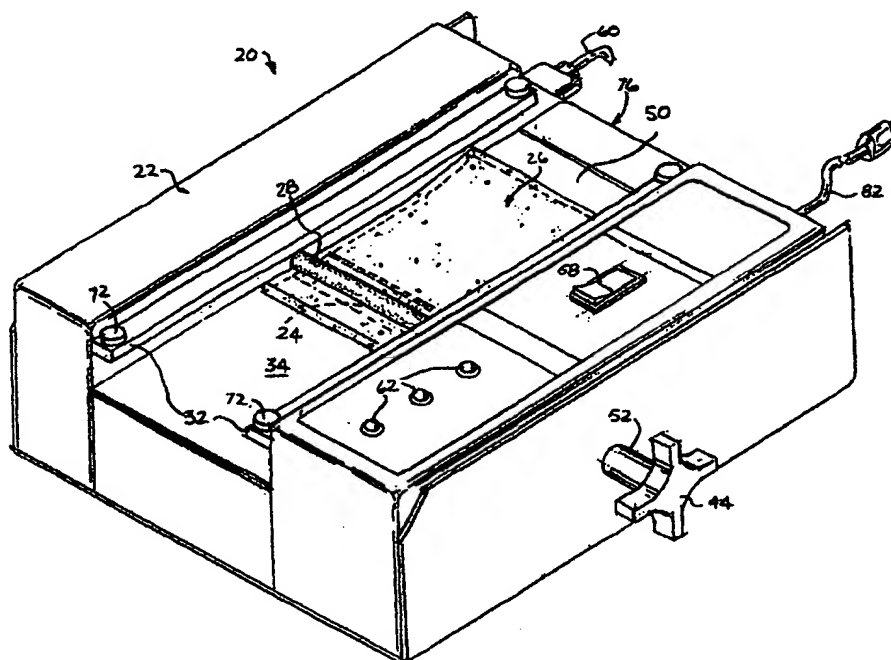
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(54) Title: PRINTER AND METHOD OF USING SAME TO PRINT ON THERMOPLASTIC MEDIUM

**(57) Abstract**

The present invention is directed to a thermal printer (20) and a method for using the printer (20) for printing on thermoplastic foam (26) to form a relief image which is comprised of open cells in the area that is the transfer ink enclosed or sealed cells which is to be impermeable to ink or other print medium. More particularly, the present invention relates to a printer (20) having a thermal head (24) or thermal imaging means and method of using the printer (20) to form an image on a thermoplastic foam (26), the image being comprised of a relief image of open cells and a background image of closed cells.